

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

(Applicant: Donald E. Burg, Serial Number: 10/602,181, Filed: June 23, 2003, Title: AIR

LUBRICATED LIFTING BODY SHIP, Examiner: Stephen Avila, Art Unit: 3617)

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION DATED May 24, 2004

CLAIMS

What I claim is:

1. (currently amended) In an improved lifting body ship with one or more strut-like members that connect a lifting body to a hull of the ship, the improvement comprising:

said lifting body having, as seen in a [[bottom plan view]] vertical longitudinal plane of the improved lifting body ship, at least in its majority a curvilinear shape [[with an artificially pressurized gas layer disposed in the underside of said lifting body]] over its upper surface wherein a water propulsor takes in at least part of its water used for propulsion through one or more water inlets disposed over a top surface of the lifting body and wherein said one or more water inlets are transversely oriented over an upper surface of the lifting body and wherein said one or more transversely oriented water inlets are, at least in their majority, aft of a longitudinal midpoint of the lifting body.

2. (currently amended) The improved lifting body ship of claim 1 [[wherein the artificially pressurized gas layer, as seen in the bottom plan view, is at least in its majority curvilinear over its forward portions]] which further comprises an artificially pressurized gas layer disposed in an underside of the lifting body.

3. (currently amended) The improved lifting body ship of claim [[1]] 2 wherein a forward and lower portion of the artificially pressurized gas layer is defined by a discontinuity in a lower surface of the lifting body.

4. (currently amended) The improved lifting body ship of claim [[1]] wherein the artificially pressurized gas layer is supplied with pressurized gas by a powered blower with the conduit for passing the pressurized gas to the artificially pressurized gas layer from the powered blower is at least in part internal to a duct disposed, at least in its majority, inside of one of the strut-like members.

5. (currently amended) The improved lifting body ship of claim [[1]] 2 wherein the gas layer in the underside of the [[artificially pressurized gas layer]] lifting body, at least mainly, rises going from forward to aft.

6-8 (canceled).

9. (original) The improved lifting body ship of claim 1 wherein the lifting body, as seen in a vertical transverse plane of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part curvilinear in shape.

10. (original) The improved lifting body ship of claim 9 wherein the lifting body, as seen in a vertical transverse plane of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part elliptical in shape.

11. (currently amended) The improved lifting body ship of claim [[10]] 1 which further comprises one or more trim control hydrofoils disposed forward of the lifting body.

12. (currently amended) In an improved lifting body ship with one or more strut-like members that connect a lifting body to a hull of the ship, the improvement comprising:

said lifting body having, as seen in a bottom plan view of the improved lifting body ship, an artificially pressurized gas layer disposed in the underside of said lifting body and wherein a forward portion of the artificially pressurized gas layer is defined by a

discontinuity in a lower surface of the lifting body and wherein [[said discontinuity, as seen in the bottom plan view of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part curvilinear in shape]] the artificially pressurized gas layer is supplied with pressurized gas by a powered blower with the conduit for passing the pressurized gas to the artificially pressurized gas layer from the powered blower is internal to a duct disposed, at least in its majority, inside of one of the strut-like members and wherein said strut like members are disposed transversely over the upper surface of the lifting body and wherein an upper surface of the lifting body, as seen in a vertical longitudinal plane of the lifting body ship, is at least mainly curvilinear in shape.

13. (original) The improved lifting body ship of claim 12 wherein the lifting body, as seen in a vertical transverse plane of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part curvilinear in shape.

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The improved lifting body ship of claim 12 wherein the gas layer in the underside of the [[artificially pressurized gas layer]] lifting body, at least mainly, rises going from forward to aft.

16. (currently amended) The improved lifting body ship of claim 12 wherein a water propulsor [[is at least in part disposed internal to the lifting body and]] takes in at least part of its water used for propulsion through one or more water inlets disposed over a top surface of the lifting body.

17. (original) The improved lifting body ship of claim 16 wherein said one or more water inlets are transversely oriented over an upper surface of the lifting body.

18. (currently amended) The improved lifting body ship of claim 17 wherein said

one or more of the transversely oriented water inlets are, at least in their majority, aft of a longitudinal midpoint of the lifting body.

19. (original) The improved lifting body ship of claim 12 wherein the lifting body, as seen in a vertical transverse plane of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part curvilinear in shape.

20. (original) The improved lifting body ship of claim 19 wherein the lifting body, as seen in a vertical transverse plane of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part elliptical in shape.

21. (original) The improved lifting body ship of claim 10 which further comprises one or more trim control hydrofoils disposed forward of the lifting body.

22. (original) In an improved lifting body ship with one or more strut-like members that connect a lifting body to a hull of the ship, the improvement comprising:

said lifting body, as seen in a bottom plan view of the improved lifting body ship, being at least in part curvilinear in shape and having an artificially pressurized gas layer disposed in the underside of said lifting body and which further comprises a water propulsor at least in part disposed internal to the lifting body that takes in at least part of its water used for propulsion through one or more water inlets disposed over a top surface of the lifting body and wherein said one or more water inlets are transversely oriented over an upper surface of the lifting body.

23. (original) The improved lifting body ship of claim 22 wherein said one or more transversely oriented water inlets are, at least in their majority, disposed aft of a longitudinal midpoint of the lifting body.

24. (original) The improved lifting body ship of claim 22 which further comprises

one or more trim control hydrofoils disposed forward of the lifting body.

25. (original) The improved lifting body ship of claim 22 wherein a forward portion of the artificially pressurized gas layer is defined by a discontinuity in a lower surface of the lifting body and wherein said discontinuity, as seen in the bottom plan view of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part curvilinear in shape.

26. (original) The improved lifting body ship of claim 22 wherein the lifting body, as seen in a vertical transverse plane of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part curvilinear in shape.

27. (original) The improved lifting body ship of claim 22 wherein the artificially pressurized gas layer is supplied with pressurized gas by a powered blower with the conduit for passing the pressurized gas to the artificially pressurized gas layer from the powered blower is internal to a duct disposed, at least in its majority, inside of one of the strut-like members.

28. (currently amended) the improved lifting body ship of claim 22 wherein the gas layer in the underside of the [[artificially pressurized gas layer]] lifting body, at least mainly, rises going from forward to aft.